Samuel L. Jackson

Returns As Jedi Master In

'Star Wars Episode II Attack Of The Clones'

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Inside:
The Warning Signs Of Sexual Abuse In Children

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JUNE 3, 2002 • VOL. 101, NO. 24 (ISSN 0021-5996)



◄ Acclaimed actor **SAMUEL L. JACKSON** portrays Jedi Master Mace Windu in the film ***STAR WARS: EPISODE II ATTACK OF THE CLONES***. The hit movie grossed over $116 million within its opening first four days **ON PAGE 56**.

Cover photo courtesy of Lucasfilm LTD.

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Appeals Court Backs Pres. Bush in Civil Rights Panel Dispute

Cleveland labor lawyer Peter Kirsanow, who had been denied his seat ever since his appointment last November to the U. S. Civil Rights Commission, was recently rescued by the Washington D. C. Federal Court of Appeals.

The court ruled that he became a legitimate Civil Rights Commissioner when President Bush named him to replace Victoria Wilson, whose term had expired. She was serving out the six-year term of the late Philadelphia Judge A. Leon Higginbotham.

After Commission Chairwoman Mary Frances Berry refused to seat the lawyer, who formerly headed the conservative Center for Black Leadership, Kirsanow nevertheless attended five commission meetings, although he sat in the audience and had no voice in the deliberations.

At his first appearance as a civil rights commissioner, the lawyer asked his colleagues why they didn't use the U. S. Attorney General as the authority for resolving legal matters.

He took issue with the commissioners on using taxpayers' money to hire outside lawyers to represent them in court.

Meanwhile, Commission Chair Mary Francis Berry appealed to the U. S. Supreme Court to settle the dispute on the length of the term of Victoria Wilson, who was replaced by Kirsanow.

Black Woman Mayor Lands $500,000 Grant For Complex In Mississippi

When she was a child in Toledo, Ohio, Yvonne Brown would spend summers with her grandmother in Tchula, MS, a poor town in the poorest state of the union.

There wasn't much to do or see except the vestiges of rampant poverty. A high unemployment rate kept the streets clear of many automobiles. Instead of busy shoppers in stores, there were only rundown, decrepit and empty buildings in the downtown section and signs of despair everywhere else.



Yvonne Brown

When she married Robert Brown after his graduation from Dallas Theology Seminary, the eager, energetic couple headed to–where else?–Tchula. The pair believed that they could bring change and pride to a community devastated decades ago by slavery, the Ku Klux Klan and down-home Southerners.

She has lived in the small town for seven years. After being elected mayor of Tchula two years ago, she landed the $500,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development Authority to build the town complex.

She is the first Black Republican woman mayor in the state.

She hopes to use the grant to erect a building to include a new City Hall, fire station and police department.

She recalls that the original City Hall building was condemned before she became mayor of Tchula.

Her biggest campaign expense was $395 for a 3-by-6 foot sign of her and President George W. Bush.

Now she has presented a $14 million stimulus package to federal officials. The funds will be spread out over three years to address problems the town has with the infrastructure, substandard housing and the environment.

"We need to get all these things in place before we can invite businesses to come to our town," she says.

Mayor Brown also points out, "It's a matter of looking around us. This is where we are. We can do better. We can move forward."

As an eager-beaver Republican, she travels regularly to the nation's capital to confer with officials on her town problems.

She works like she's on a non-stop mission. "This town will change, even if I have to pull it kicking and screaming," she says.

Easily a most impressive minority symbol for her party, Mayor Brown continues to outline plans and programs for her town of about 2,000 from a small office in her husband's church, a renovated grocery store.

"People don't like change," Brown notes. "And I make no apologies for my aggressiveness."


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▲ *Sherman L. Ragland II, inside the 160,000-square-foot airplane hangar that his firm, Tradewinds International, manages at Washington National Airport in Washington, D.C., says the FAA has singled out the airport for "closure and onerous regulation."*

Washington National Airport Terminal Manager Put Out Of Business

When the Federal Aviation Administration shut down the General Aviation Terminal at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport in Washington, D.C., after the Sept. 11 attack, CEOs and celebrities who were prevented from landing close to the city were not the only ones inconvenienced. The closure also removed the most publicized and respected terminal owned by an African-American.

Since 1989, Sherman L. Ragland II has served at the helm of his Tradewinds International Holdings LTD operations.

He is the CEO, president and founder of the firm that, since 1990, has held three exclusive contracts to manage Washington National's General Aviation Terminal, which prior to last September, boasted 11,000 flights annually.

Every year since 1996, the facility had been voted as the "Number One" fixed base operation in the U.S. in the annual survey conducted by the Professional Pilot magazine.

Still miffed by the action which put him out of business, Ragland says, "The FAA has failed to give us a credible reason for why National is being singled out for both closure and the onerous regulation it is demanding for our facility to reopen.

"With a single policy decision, the FAA has done what our competitors in the region have attempted and failed to do for almost 12 years—put the only minority-owned operation out of business," said Ragland.

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Derrick Perry

◀ *Timothy Dean (r) owner of Timothy Dean Restaurant and Bar, and his attorney Jimmy A. Bell, stand in front of the Washington, D.C., restaurant, after filing a $50 million discrimination lawsuit against St. Regis Washington Hotel.*

Black Owner Of Upscale Restaurant Files $50 Million Discrimination Lawsuit

A Black man who is the owner and chef of a five-star restaurant in the St. Regis Washington Hotel in Washington, D.C., recently filed a $50 million lawsuit against the hotel , claiming the management discriminated against him because of his race.

Timothy Dean, the owner of Timothy Dean Restaurant and Bar, alleged in the lawsuit that the St. Regis Hotel tried to put him out of business by referring customers to other restaurants.

Dean also claimed in the lawsuit that the management and staff members harassed him and that the hotel's general manager sent an e-mail to another employee stating, among other things ,that "this nigger is not only costing The St. Regis to lose revenue but it's giving the Hotel a negative image."

The suit also alleges that another hotel executive told staff members: "No Black man is capable of running a five-star establishment and he should stay in the kitchen."

The suit, filed in U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C., also names Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide Inc., the parent company of the St. Regis.

K.C. Kavanagh, a spokeswoman for Starwood Hotels, told the Washington Post: "Starwood has a strong policy of not commenting on pending litigation. In light of the nature of the claims, we feel obligated to comment. We deeply resent the attempt to convert Timothy Dean's commercial failure into a racial issue."

Dean's attorney, Jimmy A. Bell, told JET:, "This issue is about race, it is about discrimination. They said he was bringing down the value of the hotel and the restaurant because he is Black. But yet, his restaurant was rated five stars by two different rating organizations. This is definitely about race."

Dean,32, told JET: "It's makes me feel sad. I am saddened that we have had to fight for everything since we hit these shores. We fought through slavery, Jim Crow, the Civil Rights Movement and now they are attacking us in our businesses."

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR SHELBY COUNTY, TENNESSEE
IN THE THIRTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT AT MEMPHIS

Azalee Morris and Mae Pearl Pigue, on behalf of themselves and all others similarly situated
Plaintiffs,
v.
Life Insurance Company of Georgia and Southland Life Insurance Company,
Defendants.

Civil Action No. CT-004246-00-4
Honorable Rita L. Stotts

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Malcolm X's Daughter, Ilyasah Shabazz, Writes Book, 'Growing Up X'



Bill Jones

◀ *Ilyasah Shabazz, one of the six daughters of the late Malcolm X and the late Dr. Betty Shabazz, holds the book she wrote,* Growing Up X, *during a book signing at Eso Wan's bookstore in Los Angeles.*

Ilyasah Shabazz, one of Malcolm X's six daughters, writes candidly about her life without her famous father in the new book, *Growing Up X*.

Growing Up X (One World/Ballantine Books, $25), written by Shabazz and Kim McLarin, reveals little known facts about Ilyasah's experience as a member of the Shabazz household, everything from sibling rivalry, first boyfriends to the close friendship between the Shabazz family and the family of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

Ilyasah was only 2 when her father was assassinated in 1965. After the tragedy, her mother, Dr. Betty Shabazz, determined to protect her girls from the barrage of media and press surrounding the life of her husband, gave them a comfortable home and a private school education.

Growing Up X is a fascinating first-ever look at a family many have admired from afar.

Shabazz reveals what she hopes readers will learn about her famous father. "The most important thing that I would like people to know is that my father was not a man of violence and hate," she says. "My father was a man of God, and a deeply spiritual human being who assumed the full responsibility of the history of "our" struggle in America and abroad. He felt that violence was only to be used in self-defense in a society that had practiced such hate. My father devoted his life to the struggle out of love and not hate."

She notes the bond between her family and the King family. "Our families have shared the same pain and similar obstacles. Our fathers challenged the government that had been historically unjust. Our mothers cried alone at night not because their husbands left them but because while serving the Creator, they were assassinated. They were taken away from us. What the Kings have experienced, the Shabazz family has experienced. There is an undying love, respect and kindred that probably only we will understand. We often spend holidays together."


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TICKER TAPE

by Simeon Booker, *Washington Bureau Chief*

Confidential: Ambassador **George F. Moose** was a finalist in the competition to head the $10 billion Global Fund founded by UN Secretary General **Kofi Annan** to attack HIV/AIDS in the developing world. The chances for the Howard University senior fellow in international affairs dimmed during a crossfire between the U. S. and other Security Council members unhappy with the Bush Administration Middle East policies...Only Congressional Black Caucus Chair **Eddie Bernice Johnson** sounded the alarm when a Labor Dept. report showed that the national unemployment rate for African-Americans peaked at an eight-year high in April. This showed that efforts to stimulate the economy hadn't reached people of color. The Labor Department showed the jobless rate soared to 11.2 percent in April, up from 10.7 percent in March. The digit rate was the highest since October of 1994 and increased during a strong economic growth rate in the first quarter of 2002...Here's one reason to register to vote: This fall, if Democrats manage to gain control of the House, Harlem Rep. **Charles Rangel** could become the first Black Chair of the powerful Ways and Means Committee while Detroit Rep. **John Conyers** could become Chair of the Judiciary Committee... Secretary of Defense **Donald H. Rumsfeld** cancelled the seven billion dollar Crusader military project and triggered a Capitol Hill controversy. One of the few African-Americans involved in preparing for the new artillery weapon was Okla. Rep. **J. C. Watts**, the House's only Black GOPer and Chair of the GOP Conference. Oklahoma was the site of key operations, including the army's artillery bases and sites for new plants.

National Headliners

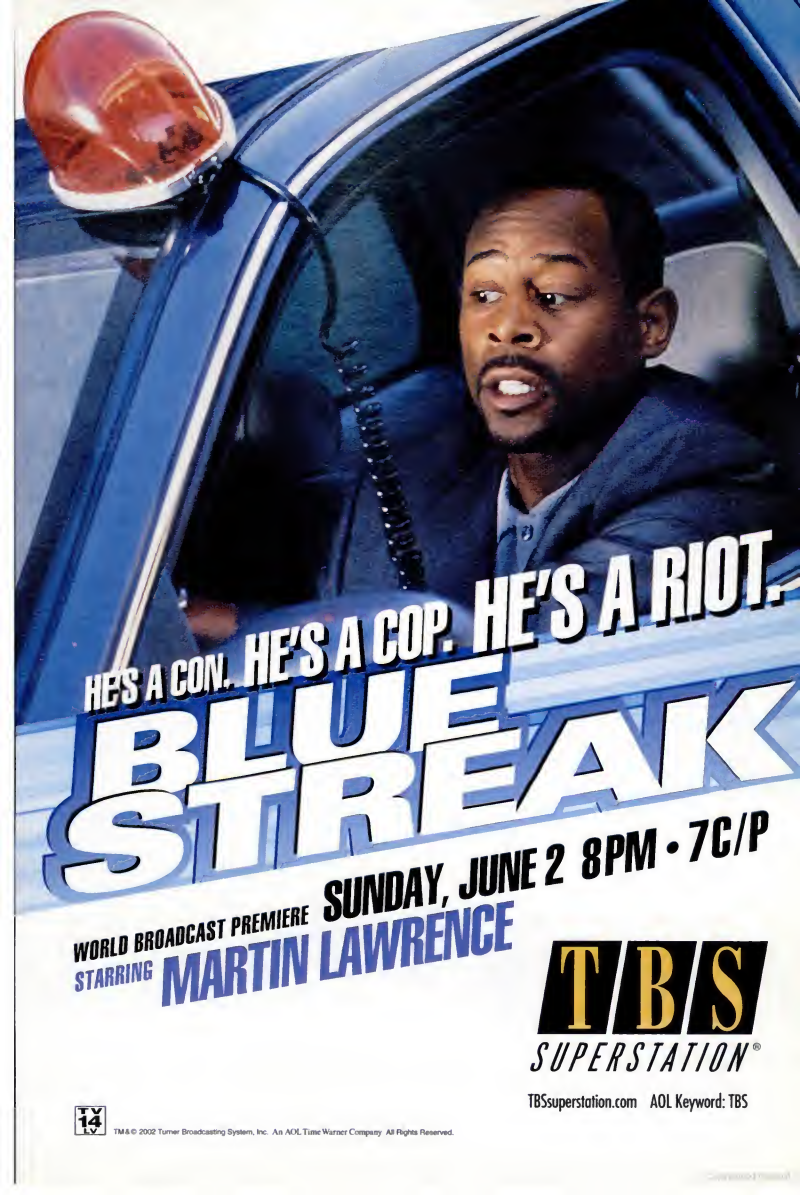
President-elect of the American Library Association is Baltimore's library director **Carla D. Hayden**...At the Howard University commencement, Atlanta Mayor **Shirley Clarke Franklin** not only delivered the keynote address but received an honorary degree...The farm bill recently signed by President Bush included for the first time the establishing of the post of Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights in the Agriculture Department...Washington Post reporter **Dorothy Gilliam** was inducted into the Hall of Fame of Professional Journalists...Winning the Philadelphia Award with a $25,000 stipend was long-time educator and civic leader **Bernard C. Watson**.



J. C. Watts



Shirley Clarke Franklin


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Vecepia Towery, 1st Black to Win $1 Million on CBS' "Survivor"

Vecepia "Vee" Towery is the first Black female and newest member to join CBS' fourth installment of the "Survivor" millionaires' club.

Towery, a 36-year-old office manager from Portland, OR, beat out 15 other contestants including finalist Neleh Dennis, a 21-year-old psychology student from Layton, UT, after a 4-3 vote was made by a jury of seven former castaways on the season's final episode of "Survivor: Marquesas." It was the first time in the show's short history that two women emerged as the finalist.

For winning the competition, which was taped during 39 days in the South Pacific's Marquesas Islands, Towery takes home the $1 million grand prize.

With her fortune Towery plans to finish work on the home she and her new husband, Leander Robinson, have been renovating and invest the rest – but all that will come after giving "tithes and offerings to my Father," she says.

Last November, the 16 contestants were left with minimal supplies and a TV production crew on Nuku Hiva, part of Tahiti's Marquesas Island, about halfway between Los Angeles and Sydney, Australia. They began the adventure as two tribes of eight players each. One player was voted off every three days by the other contestants.



▲ *"Survivor: Marquesas" winner Vecepia Towery of Portland, OR, receives a kiss from her husband Leander Robinson in New York City after being announced the winner of the reality show. Towery is the first Black female contestant to win the $1 million grand prize.*

Towery said that the thing that made her most proud was being the first Black contestant to win the reality game show watched by 21 million viewers per week.

"It's important to be humble," she says. "But I had the feeling that God would lead me (to victory), and he did."

CORRECTIONS: In the May 20, 2002, JET, the photo taken of JET Beauty Danielle Greenwood was mistakenly credited. The actual photographer is Tony Cooper...In the May 27, 2002 issue of JET Magazine, the dates for "This Week In Black History" were transposed. The dates should be: May 22, 1966, for Bill Cosby and May 26, 1956 Althea Gibson. JET regrets these errors.



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Joe Black, Baseball Pioneer And Retired Greyhound Corp. Executive, Dies

Joe Black, the first Black pitcher to win a World Series game, recently died of cancer in Phoenix. He was 78.

Black, who was in failing health for months, died at the Life Care Center of Scottsdale in Phoenix.



Joe Black

Black spent a season in the minors before the Brooklyn Dodgers promoted him to the major leagues in 1952, five years after teammate Jackie Robinson broke baseball's color barrier.

Dominant out of the bullpen, he was chosen Rookie of the Year after winning 15 games and saving 15 others for the National League champion.

Strapped for pitching, Dodgers manager Chuck Dressen brought Black out of the bullpen and started him three times in seven days in the 1952 World Series against the New York Yankees. He won the opener game with a six-hitter over Allie Reynolds, 4-2.

Black was 28 when he reached the majors after helping the Baltimore Elite Giants of the Negro Leagues win two championships in seven years.

He roomed with Robinson while with Brooklyn, and pushed for a pension plan for Negro League players.

After his baseball career ended, Black became an executive with Greyhound Corporation.

He began as a marketing representative for Greyhound Lines in 1962 and was appointed vice president of special markets in 1967–making him the first Black vice president of a major transportation company. In 1969, he was elected to fill that same position for the parent company, Greyhound Corporation, becoming one of the first Black officers of a major U.S. company. As vice president, he implemented many programs geared toward the Black consumer market.

He also remained in touch with baseball as a consultant for the commissioner's office and offered guidance to young players.

A native of Plainfield, NJ, Black graduated from Morgan State in Baltimore. He also wrote a syndicated column "By The Way" for EBONY magazine and other media outlets, as well as an autobiography, *Ain't Nobody Better Than You*.

Black asked to be cremated, his daughter Martha Jo Black of Chicago, told JET. His ashes will be scattered where he learned to play baseball in Plainfield, she said.

Ms. Black says of her devoted father and baseball legend: "He taught my brother and I everything about life. He had the best sense of humor and always lectured me and my brother to always 'save your money.'"

In addition to his daughter, Black is survived by a son, Joseph Frank Black of Phoenix.

Memorial services were planned in New Jersey at JET press time.

This Week In Black History

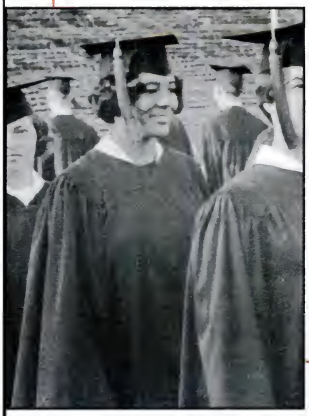


May 29, 1973—

▶ **Thomas Bradley**, lawyer, police officer and city councilman, was elected the first Black mayor of Los Angeles on this day. Though the city was only 15 percent Black at the time, Bradley garnered 56 percent of the total vote in defeating incumbent mayor Sam Yorty. Bradley was re-elected and served an unprecedented five terms. During his 20-year tenure, the city flourished as a financial center and benefited greatly from hosting the 1984 Summer Olympic Games. Bradley was born on December 29, 1917, in Calvert, TX. His family moved to L.A. when he was 7 years old. He entered UCLA in 1937, majoring in education. From there he joined the Los Angeles police department and rose to the rank of lieutenant, the highest rank held by a Black during his 21-year career. In 1963, he became the first Black elected as a city councilman. He served in that position until he won the mayoral post. He retired from public office in 1993. Bradley died on September 29, 1998, of a heart attack at the age of 80 in Los Angeles.

May 30, 1965—

▼ **Vivian Malone Jones** became the first Black graduate of the University of Alabama on this day. Jones graduated with a bachelor's degree in management. Two years earlier, she, along with James Hood, made civil rights history by successfully enrolling at the University of Alabama despite then-Gov. George Wallace, who stood in the way of the schoolhouse door in an attempt to prohibit court-ordered desegregation at the university. Most of Jones' working career was spent in the federal government until she retired in 1996 as director of the federal Office of Environmental Justice in the Environmental Protection Agency. Her civil rights-related efforts have earned her numerous awards. In 1995, the University of Alabama celebrated the 30th anniversary of Jones' graduation by establishing the Vivian Malone Jones Scholarship Fund. She currently lives in Atlanta.



Mental Evaluation Ordered For Baltimore Man In Priest's Shooting



AP/The Baltimore Sun



AP/WBAL-TV

◀ *Dontee D. Stokes (l) recently surrendered to police after allegedly shooting catholic priest Rev. Maurice Blackwell (r) three times outside the clergyman's home in Baltimore. In 1993 Stokes, then 17, accused Blackwell of fondling him over a period of three years.*



Sylvester Cox



Tamara Stokes

A judge has ordered a mental evaluation for a Baltimore man charged with shooting a Roman Catholic priest he says sexually abused him years ago.

Dontee D. Stokes, 26, who is on suicide watch, asked Judge H. Gary Bass to release him so he could see his 20-month-old daughter and the rest of his family.

"I just want to say I'm not a flight risk and I'm not at risk to myself," said Stokes, who appeared in court by video transmission from the Baltimore Central Booking and Intake Center. "Although I may be depressed, I'm not suicidal."

At JET Press time Stokes' lawyer, Thomas McNicholas, asked Bass to release Stokes until his trial because Stokes, a barber, was not a suicide risk and did not have a criminal record. Bass however, wants a doctor's opinion before granting the suspect bail.

Sylvester Cox, an assistant state's attorney, asked the judge to keep Stokes in jail. A spokeswoman for the prosecutor's office said it has a policy of requesting denial of bail in cases in which there is evidence of a deliberate attempt to kill someone.

McNicholas said that the recent news about the child sex abuse scandal in the Roman Catholic church "triggered all theses emotions" in his client.

Stokes is accused of shooting the Rev. Maurice Blackwell, 56, outside of the priest's home after Blackwell

refused to talk to him. Stokes' mother, Tamara Stokes, said her son was frustrated because he was unable to get an apology from the priest.

"No one looked at his plea," his mother said to WBAL-TV in Baltimore. "The nuns knew about it; the priest knew about it. Yesterday was his breaking point."

In 1993 Stokes claimed that while taking Bible classes at the St. Edward Catholic Church where Blackwell was pastor, the priest fondled him when he was a 17-year-old parishioner in the office on a number of occasions for over three years.

Investigators and prosecutors looked into the case for several months. Since there were no witnesses police said there was not enough proof to charge Blackwell.

The archdiocese removed Blackwell from priestly duties in 1998 because of accusations of sexual misconduct by another alleged victim.

Police said that Stokes turned himself in after walking into a service at Gillis Memorial Christian Community Church and telling a clergyman he shot Blackwell with a .357 caliber pistol. He was charged with attempted murder, first and second-degree assault and gun violations.

Blackwell remained in fair condition at JET press time at the University of Maryland Trauma Center with wounds in his left hand, hip and side.

If convicted of attempted murder, Stokes would face a maximum sentence of life in prison, with the possibility of parole.

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  two-piece bikini (women)
  one-piece swimsuit (full-figure)
  brief-cut swim trunks (men)
- **fashionable photo in suit or dress**

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- Do not send photographs larger than 8x10.
- Name, address and phone number should be written on back of each photo.
- Please note that photographs will not be returned.

EOE



▲ *R. Donahue Peebles sits in the lobby of his newly-opened Royal Palm Crowne Plaza Resort in Miami Beach, FL. Peebles is the country's first Black owner of a major resort hotel.*

First Black-Owned Major Hotel Opens In Miami Beach

R. Donahue Peebles, president and chief executive officer of Miami-based Peebles Atlantic Development Corp., recently opened the Royal Palm Crowne Plaza Resort in Miami Beach, FL.

The building of this structure cast Peebles as the nation's first Black to develop and own a major convention resort hotel.

The venture was the centerpiece of a settlement to end a three-year Black tourism boycott of South Florida that cost Miami-Dade County about $50 million. "It's a unique opportunity," Peebles said of developing the 422-room, $84 million Art Deco hotel. "The symbolism behind it was important, so my responsibility was to make this hotel meet the expectations that the African-American community as a whole had for it."

The hotel is committed to hiring minorities for half of its staff and at least a quarter of senior management. Its management-level staff is nearly 100 percent African-American, Peebles said. "What we want to do is to have the best and brightest, and hopefully get to a point...where no one will pay attention whether it's minority owned or not minority owned."


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RECIPE OF THE WEEK



Sensation From The Grill

There's nothing like the taste of food cooked over an open fire. Grilled Ginger-Orange Chicken Breast will make a sensational dish for your family.

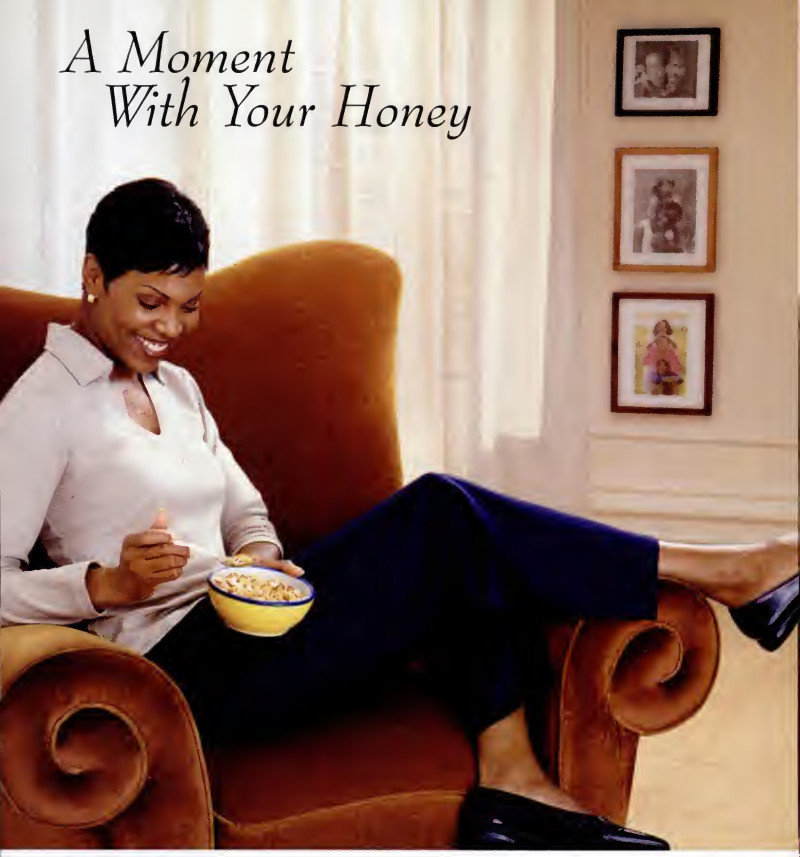
GRILLED GINGER-ORANGE CHICKEN BREASTS

⅓ cup orange marmalade
¼ cup soy sauce
2 tablespoons orange juice
2 cloves garlic, minced
1 tablespoon grated fresh gingerroot
Dash cayenne
Salt and pepper to taste
4 chicken breast halves

Combine marmalade, soy sauce, orange juice, garlic, gingerroot, cayenne, salt and pepper in small saucepan. Bring to a boil. Remove from heat and stir well. Let cool to room temperature. Place chicken breasts in a shallow glass dish. Pour cooled marinade over chicken and let stand in refrigerator for 1 hour. Remove chicken from marinade and grill over medium coals for 8 to 10 minutes on each side, basting frequently with remaining marinade.

Yields 4 servings

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PEOPLE



Lorraine Branham,
veteran journalist and assistant to the publisher of the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, was named director of the School of Journalism at The University of Texas at Austin. She is the first female and first Black appointed to the post. Branham also served as senior vice president and executive editor of the Tallahassee (FL) Democrat and has 25 years of managerial, reporting and teaching experience.



Ryan W. McDay,
director of sponsorship & content for satellite media company WorldSpace Corporation, was appointed national director of communications for the United Negro College Fund (UNCF) in Fairfax, VA. McDay previously worked with UNCF as director of media relations. UNCF is the nation's oldest and most successful African American higher education assistance organization.



Edwina Wilson Divins,
associate general counsel for Domino's Pizza in Ann Arbor, MI, was promoted to vice president and associate general counsel. As vice president, she will provide legal advice and educate the organization on legal issues. Divins graduated *magna cum laude* from Spelman College and received her law degree from the University of Iowa College of Law. Domino's is a world leader in pizza delivery.



Preston K. Gilstrap,
a 30-year veteran of the Dallas Police Department who currently serves as the administrative sergeant to the Neighborhood Nuisance Response Unit, was elected national chairperson and CEO of the Washington, D.C.-based National Black Police Association (NBPA). Founded in 1972, the NBPA is an advocate for minorities in law enforcement and represents 35,000 members.



Dr. PonJola Coney,
head of the Obstetrics and Gynecology Department at Southern Illinois University's medical school, was named dean of the School of Medicine and senior vice president for health affairs of Meharry Medical College in Nashville, TN. Coney is widely recognized for her work in reproductive medicine. Founded in 1876, Meharry is one of the nation's largest historically Black medical institutions.

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SOCIETY WORLD

▲ **You Make Me Happy:** Yvette Chappell celebrated her eternal love by wedding Reginald Ingram, Jr. at First AME Church in Los Angeles. The bride is a graduate of the University of Southern California. She is vice president of development for college bound. The groom is a graduate of Cornell University. He is vice president and chief development officer for the Entertainment Industry Foundation. They enjoyed a romantic honeymoon in Lake Arrowhead.

▲ **My Heart Is Open To You:** Lt. Darryl Brown married Monique N. Fergerson at the Jerusalem Baptist Church in Charleston, SC. The bride graduated from the University of South Carolina's School of Law. She has her own law offices. The groom graduated from the University of South Carolina. He is a naval officer in the United States Navy. San Juan, Puerto Rico, is where they honeymooned. The couple will settle into Chesapeake, VA.

► **Soul To Soul:** Livingston Roberts made the former Kim Harris his wife at the Safety Harbor Resort in Safety Harbor, FL. Both certified personal trainers, the newlyweds are the CEOs of Rocfitness Personal Training and Massage Center. The bride is also a licensed massage therapist. The couple honeymooned in Mexico and Jamaica. The happy twosome will begin their new life in Clearwater, FL.





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-Karina



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SOCIETY WORLD

▲ **I Chose You:** Christopher Dwayne Blanding tied the knot with Monyca D'Niece Cundiff at Townsley Chapel A.M.E. Church in Savannah, GA. The newlyweds are both graduates of Shaw University. The bride is an educator in the Glynn County School System. The groom is in restaurant management for the Ruby Tuesday Corporation. After a romance-filled honeymoon in Montego Bay, Jamaica, the couple will reside in Brunswick, GA.



▲ **The Way I Feel:** James E. Clark Jr. married Nadia C. Brassell at Mt. Vernon Baptist Church in Memphis, TN. The bride is a graduate of Jackson State University. She is a senior customer service representative for Allstate Insurance Company. The groom, who attends the Culinary Hospitality Institute of Chicago, is a ramp agent for Southwest Airlines. The newlyweds honeymooned in Nassau, Bahamas. Vernon Hills, IL, is where they will live.

◄ **Sensational At 60:** Bishop William Haven Bonner and his wife, Dorothy Mae Bonner, of Aurora, IL, recently commemorated 60 years of marriage with family and friends at the Greater Mount Olive Church of God in Christ in Aurora. Bishop Bonner has pastored the Greater Mount Olive Church of God in Christ for 58 years. The Bonners are the proud parents of four; one is deceased. They are the grandparents of 11 and the great-grandparents of 11.



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New Research Suggests That Breast-fed Babies Make For Smarter Adults

Infants breast-fed for nine months grow up to be considerably more intelligent than babies breast-fed for one month or less, according to a recent study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA).

An IQ test administered to over 3,000 young men and women born in Copenhagen, Denmark, from 1959 to 1961 were evaluated in the study that showed an average intelligence increase of six points from those who were breast-fed for a longer period of time.

Dr. June Machover Reinisch, co-author of the study and director emerita of the Kinsey Institute for Research in Sex, Gender and Reproduction at Indiana University, said that six points isn't "the difference between an Einstein and a mentally retarded child," but it could be the difference "between normal and bright-normal, or bright-normal and superior," reports USA Today.

The Danish study took into account 13 similar factors, which included parental education and social status, the mother's health and the child's birth weight. Infants who nursed for seven to nine months had a mean IQ score of 106, compared to an average score of 99 among babies breast-fed for less than a month.

For some time now studies have suggested that there are physical benefits that breast-fed babies have over bottle-fed infants such as having lower rates of hospital admissions, allergies and ear infections. There are even indications that nursing may prevent obesity in the child's later development.

Previous research has hinted at the link between breast-feeding and improved intelligence but this new study appears to provide the strongest indication of an effect.

Reinisch said that the newfound information is significant because it suggests that the nutrients found in human breast milk enhance the brains' development differently from those ingredients in cow's milk or baby formula.

"Nobody has been able to reproduce human breast milk because there are lots of elements we don't even know about," said Reinisch to the Wall Street Journal.

For a variety of reasons women choose not to breast-feed. The mothers that are least likely to practice nursing are often minorities and poor. Researchers say that the reasons that women give range from cultural biases against the practice to the difficulties experienced when they decide to return to work.

Even though most Americans are bottle-fed during much of their infancy, the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that babies be nursed for a minimum of six months and if possible 12 months or more.


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▲ *Newark, NJ, Mayor Sharpe James (center) celebrates his victory with NJ State Police Superintendent Joseph Santiago and civil rights leader Rev. Al Sharpton in Newark.*

Newark Mayor Sharpe James Wins Election For Fifth Term

Newark, NJ, Mayor Sharpe James recently won an unprecedented fifth term as leader of the state's largest city.

James fended off a furious challenge from an Ivy Leaguer half his age to win the election after a bruising campaign filled with charges of vandalism, voter intimidation and race-baiting.

The 66-year-old mayor defeated 33-year-old freshman city councilman Cory Booker, who is also Black.

With 99 percent of precincts reporting, James had 28,363 votes or 53 percent, and Booker had 24,869 votes, or 46 percent.

There were no immediate comments from the mayor. But hundreds of James supporters began hugging each other and crying "Four more years!" in a glittering hotel ballroom filled with red, white and blue balloons and signs bearing his re-election slogan: "The Real Deal."

The months-long campaign was so nasty that federal prosecutors posted observers at the polls to watch for fraud and intimidation.

While both men are Black Democrats in a mostly Black city, the lighter-skinned Booker claimed James questioned his Black authenticity by calling him a "White boy" and accusing him of taking campaign donations from the Ku Klux Klan.

A spokesman for James called th allegations "ludicrous" and said Boo er was trying to distract voters fr the issues.

James, who was raised in the and graduated from nearby Mon State College, was first elected City Council three years afte

riots in 1967 devastated the city of Newark, which has a population of 274,000. He was first elected mayor in 1986.

James has taken credit for a 50 percent drop in crime, the demolition of some of the worst public housing projects in the country and a downtown renaissance that has attracted telecommunications companies and brought suburbanites out at night to restaurants and the 5-year-old New Jersey Performing Arts Center. He has also helped lead a push for a sports arena downtown.

The mayor called his opponent an interloper who moved to Newark just five years ago from the privileged northern New Jersey suburbs.

Booker holds degrees from Stanford and Yale Law School and was a Rhodes scholar at Oxford. He made headlines for his hunger strike outside a drug-infested housing project and for living temporarily in a trailer in some of the city's worst neighborhoods.

Booker said James has ignored much of the city in favor of downtown. One third of Newark's residents live in poverty, and the school system has been under state control for the past six years.

Booker vowed to run for mayor again in four years.



▶ **A KISS FROM THE PRESIDENT:** Vivian Kimmons receives a kiss on the cheek from President George W. Bush as fellow employee Guadalupe Meza looks on, following his remarks about the Welfare-to-Work program to United Parcel Service (UPS) employees and families at the company's warehouse in downtown Chicago. Both women, who now work for the delivery company, have successfully made the transition from welfare to employment. Kimmons, a single mother with nine children, said, "It was just a hard road trying to make ends meet. Then somebody somewhere came up with Welfare-to-Work. I'm proud of myself." President Bush told the crowd, "In this country, if you give somebody a chance they can succeed." UPS has hired more than one million former welfare recipients.



▲ *Students rally at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor following a recent federal court ruling that allows the school to consider race in admitting students.*

Federal Appeals Court Upholds Use Of Race In Michigan Law School Admissions

In a case that could go to the U.S. Supreme Court, a federal appeals court ruled that the University of Michigan law school's policy of considering race as a factor in deciding which students to accept is legal.

"We find that the law school has a compelling state interest in achieving a diverse student body," the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Detroit said.

The recent 5-4 ruling, which reverses an earlier decision by a lower court, sprang from two consolidated lawsuits brought by White students who were denied admission to the university. They contended that Michigan's law school and undergraduate admissions policies discriminate against Whites in favor of less-qualified minorities.

The university argued that racial diversity enhances the education of all its students. It said it considers race among a number of factors, including an applicant's academic record.

Analysts have said the Michigan case could give the Supreme Court an opportunity to revisit the 1978 Bakke case, involving the University of California, which allowed consideration of race in college admissions but banned racial quotas.

In a dissent, Circuit Judge Danny Boggs called Michigan's policy "a straightforward instance of racial discrimination by a state institution."

University of Michigan Interim President B. Joseph White called the recent ruling "a very wise decision, both for the university and for all of higher education."

The plaintiffs' lawyers said they will take their case to the U.S. Supreme Court.

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Ann Nesby

people and "the opportunity to be married and to be pleasing in God's sight," she says.

Other highlights include *I Can't Get Over You, Advice,* (a duet with her daughter Jamecia Bennett) and *Let Your Will Be Done,* a joyous gospel tune, featuring Ricky Dillard and New G.

As the leader of the 40-member-plus gospel ensemble Sounds of Blackness, Nesby helped make the group a household name in the early '90s with such hits as *Pressure, Optimistic* and *Testify.* She made her solo album debut 1996 with *I'm Here For You* featuring

Ann Nesby Tells Her Fans To 'Put It On Paper'

Powerhouse vocalist Ann Nesby returns to the spotlight with the hit duet, *Put It On Paper,* with legendary performer Al Green.

The smash duet is also the title track of her new sizzling CD which is racing up the charts.

"We caught up with Al Green when he was on tour and we sent him a tape of the song," Nesby recalls. "I was in Philadelphia and he flew in to record it and it was amazing. I mean historic!"

The single, *Put It On Paper* celebrates marriage and the importance of a legal bond between two the hit, *I'm Still Wearing Your Name.*

The busy performer will host the new "BET Gospel Brunch" show, which premieres this summer.

Reflecting on her gospel/inspirational trademark sound, she notes: "I talk about life situations. I consider myself to be a Christian who is a singer. I am also a storyteller, a life storyteller. I like to talk about the perfect solution which would be God in any situation; the power of God to be able to change all situations."

Aaliyah's Parents Sue Record Company

The parents of Aaliayh have filed a lawsuit against Virgin Records, alleging negligence and recklessness caused the plane crash last year that killed the 22-year-old singer and actress.

The lawsuit, filed in Los Angeles Superior Court on behalf of Diane and Michael Haughton, also named as defendants several video production companies and Blackhawk International Airways, the company that operated the plane that crashed.

Aaliyah had been in the Bahamas to film a music video and was returning to Florida on a charter-flight last August when it crashed on takeoff. All nine people aboard the Cessna 402-B aircraft died (JET, Sept. 17, 2001). Investigators said the twin-engine plane was at least 700 pounds overweight.

The Haughtons allege in their lawsuit that a "dangerous and unsafe configuration" of the Cessna caused the crash.

A spokesperson for Virgin Records or Blackhawk could not be reached for comment.

Aaliyah continues to be a top record seller with her recent hits, *Rock The Boat* and *We Need A Resolution* from the self-titled CD, *Aaliyah*.

Her other hits include *Back and Forth*, *At Your Best You Are Love*, *One In A Million*, *If Your Girl Only Knew* and *Are You That Somebody*.





◀ **Graduation Day:** Grace Love Center student Dariana Whitsett looks back into the stands for her parents during recent graduation ceremonies for the P.A.C.E. Head Start at Reed Green Coliseum in Hattiesburg, MS. A total of 376 students received diplomas during the annual graduation program.

▼ **Dance Theatre of Harlem:** His Serene Highness Crown Prince Albert of Monaco (l) celebrates the opening night benefit performance of the famed Dance Theater of Harlem with (l-r) choreographer Geoffrey Holder, opera diva Jessye Norman, Arthur Mitchell, founder of Dance Theatre of Harlem, and Ernest Littles, CEO, Dance Theatre of Harlem, at the Apollo Theatre in Harlem, NY. Proceeds from the performance benefit the Princess Grace Foundation—USA, which is named in memory of Princess Grace of Monaco, who was committed to helping young artists. The Dance Theatre of Harlem has received the Princess Grace Award in dance, recognizing its outstanding new company members.



Patrick McMullan



■ **Boxing Imbalance:** Manute Bol (l), the 7-foot-7 ex- NBA player, and former Chicago Bears lineman William "The Fridge" Perry weigh in before squaring off with each other for Fox TV's "Celebrity Boxing 2" program. In the middle is former Olympian Olga Korbut, who faced off with Darva Conger of "Who Wants to Marry a Millionaire?"

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beauty of the week



MIRANDA SINCLAIR is from Tucson, AZ. She enjoys roller-blading, reading and dancing.

Photo by Phil Collins



■ **Lovin' Their Smiles:** UPN's "One on One" star Flex Alexander and his wife, R&B singer Shanice, hold their adorable 9-month-old daughter Imani Shekinah at their home in Santa Clarita, CA. This is the couple's first child.



Carmen Valdes/Galella Ltd.

■ **Remembering 'Miami Vice':** Actor Philip Michael Thomas is accompanied by friend Judy Jones to NBC's 75th Anniversary Special at Rockefeller Center in New York City where they celebrated Thomas' role in the TV series "Miami Vice" (1984-1989) as Detective Ricardo Tubbs.

Fitness Is The True Fountain Of Youth

Wouldn't it be nice to have a little pill that could add years to your life, fight off disease, reduce the effects of aging and make you look and feel 10, 20 or 30 years younger? If this miracle pill did exist, you probably would take it every day without fail, maybe even several times a day, in order to live a long, healthy life.

The good news is, that pill does exist. It's called exercise. Maybe that's not the answer you wanted, but physical fitness is the closest thing we have on Earth to a Fountain of Youth. And those reaching the golden years—and there are plenty of us—need a good drink from that fountain every day to stay healthy and active.

Fortunately, there's no shortage of physical fitness, but there are millions of us who are short on exercise—particularly older Black women, who are at special risk of developing cardiovascular diseases, diabetes and other health problems because of sedentary lifestyles, experts say.

According to the Surgeon General, more than 60 percent of American adults do not engage in the recommended amount of activity—a minimum of 30 minutes a day, three days of the week—and about 25 percent of adults aren't active at all. The most inactive groups are Blacks and Hispanics, women, and older adults, the Surgeon General reports.

Naturally, those of us in our 50s, 60s and 70s are not as strong and as agile as we were in our 20s. But health experts say that much of the weakness, stiffness and fatigue that we chalk up to advanced age is actually the result of inactivity. Sedentary lifestyles, not aging bodies, make us feel old and feeble.

In fact, researchers have found that regular physical activity can improve the health of people who are in their 90s or older, who are frail or who have chronic diseases. Even diseases usually associated with aging—diabetes, osteoporosis, colon cancer, heart disease, stroke—can be prevented or their effects can be reduced if we put more fitness in our lives.

And there are plenty of "physical" benefits in physical fitness. Most people lose 20 to 40 percent of their muscle tissue as they get older, and bone production slows about age 30 (in women bone loss hastens after menopause).

Daily exercise, whether it's walking, jogging, stair climbing, dancing or weight lifting, makes bones and muscles stronger, denser and able to withstand the effects of age. Exercise also burns excess calories and reduces body fat, which keeps you trim and toned.

And it can make you think and feel younger. Research shows that regular fitness can reduce anxiety, relieve depression, boost your spirits and improve your memory. One study found that exercisers age 65 and older were less likely to develop Alzheimer's disease and less likely to experience a decline in their mental abilities.

Ready to take the fitness plunge? Your Fountain of Youth is waiting.



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Eddie Griffin Shows A '70s Sense Of Style In Action Comedy 'Undercover Brother'



▲ *Aunjanue Ellis (l) and Denise Richards (r) go undercover with UB, played by Eddie Griffin (c), to infiltrate the enemy in action comedy* Undercover Brother.

Comic actor Eddie Griffin goes from being an Afro-wearing, jive talking man to a dreadlocked Rastafarian and an 85-year-old janitor in the new comedy *Undercover Brother*.

As the *Undercover Brother*, Griffin's character has a slick style when it comes to clothes and women. He has Bruce Lee-style moves and sleek "Cadillac" attitude. But not even his savvy style and chameleon qualities have prepared him for the biggest mission of his life—dealing with a sinister underground movement. That movement has begun unleashing a terrifying weapon: an irresistibly packaged psycho-hallucinogenic drug that will reduce the entire population to mindless zombies.

There is an organization of good guys known as the B.R.O.T.H.E.R.-H.O.O.D. dedicated to fighting the movement. But they know that they need their own secret weapon—a crime fighter who's cool enough to infiltrate the enemies and deal with them on the streets or in the sheets.

And Griffin's character is the one person they know they can count on. He trades in his humongous Afro, dark shades and platform shoes for khakis, horn-rimmed glasses and loafers and becomes the preppy nerd Anton Jackson who works at a multinational corporation.



Billy Dee Williams



Chi McBride



Dave Chappelle

He has a sexy and

sassy partner named Sistah Girl (Aunjanue Ellis) who tries to help him find out what's going on with the movement. Problems arise when the evil leader's right arm, Mr. Feather (Chris Kattan), finds out about them and he dispatches his own sexy weapon, Penelope Snow (Denise Richards) who is determined, in her own way, to take care of business.

Griffin said of the role: "Undercover Brother is a blue-collar hero. He's trying to equal the playing field, and give more people a chance at the opportunities in life."

The film also stars Billy Dee Williams, Dave Chappelle, Chi McBride, Neil Patrick Harris, Jack Noseworthy and Gary Anthony Williams.

And Griffin really got into that 1970s feel of Undercover Brother's style and wardrobe. "UB loves his polyester," he said. "It goes with his 375 horsepower 1972 classic Cadillac—which has custom-designed leather seating and fuzzy balls hanging off the rearview mirror. So, he can see clearer, you know? It's just his style."

And there was a chance for the comedian to show that he can do physical, action comedy. "I got to jump off a nine-story building into the air bag, something I've never done before. This is a film with so many different types of comedy when you consider me, Chris, Dave, Gary, Neil Patrick Harris—so many different things are going on. And then you've got the action, all the martial arts, the wire work, the green screen. My hat's off to (director) Malcolm D. Lee.

Lee, who also directed *The Best Man*, was equally complimentary about Griffin. Without a doubt, he said the first person who came to mind when the decision was made to film was Griffin.



▲ *Eddie Griffin is Undercover Brother, a blast from the past ready to rescue his people from The Man.*

"There's nobody better for the role of Undercover Brother," Lee said. "Eddie is physical, he's got great movement and he's funny. He's also very knowledgeable about the '70s and the whole super-funk vibe. People are going to be surprised by Eddie. I don't think there are many actors out there who could pull off a blow-out Afro and pork chop sideburns the way he does."

Undercover Brother is one of three movies Griffin has coming out in 2002. He was featured in the hit Denzel Washington film *John Q* and in the comedy *The New Guy*.

Undercover Brother was born on a fledgling Website two years ago and is considered the first character created on the Internet to become the hero of a major film.

Connie Payton Puts Home On Market For $2.49 Million


Connie Payton

Connie Payton, the widow of Chicago Bears legend Walter Payton, is selling their South Barrington, IL, home for $2.49 million.

The approximately 11,000-square-foot home, is an 18-room ranch situated on five acres in an exclusive suburb near Chicago.

The Paytons bought the waterfront property in 1985 for $150,000 and built the six bedroom house, which has four fireplaces, a tennis court and an indoor gun range, the Chicago Tribune reported.

"It's a hillside ranch with a full walk out lower level," listing agent Chuck Fiduccia of Starck & Co. in Schaumburg, IL, told the Chicago Tribune. "And with a beautiful pond in the back and a pond in the front, there's a nice view out of every window."

Mrs. Payton is looking for a smaller house in the Barrington area, since son Jarrett is away at school at the University of Miami and daughter Brittney will start her senior year of high school next year, Fiduccia said.

The Paytons married in 1976. Walter Payton died of liver cancer in Nov. 1999. Mrs. Payton serves as chair of the Walter Payton Cancer Fund, which rasies funds for research.



◄ **KNIGHT HAWK:** Billy Knight was recently named the director of basketball operations of the Atlanta Hawks. "I'm very excited about joining the Hawks, and I appreciate the opportunity," said Knight. "The Hawks are an up-and-coming team in our league, and I'm excited about getting to know the players and working with the organization as we move forward." Knight, 49, was formerly the Memphis Grizzlies general manager for the last two seasons. In his first season with the Grizzlies, the team recorded 23 wins, the most in franchise history. "Billy is well-recognized throughout the NBA for his exceptional abilities and his outstanding character," said Hawks Vice President/ General Manager Pete Babcock. "He will be instrumental in all decisions we make as a staff as we will rely heavily on his many years of experience as a player and executive in professional basketball." Prior to joining the Grizzlies, Knight was a front-office executive with the Indiana Pacers for five years and he played pro basketball for 11 seasons.

Harlem Globetrotters Team Owner Awarded NCCJ's Humanitarian Award

Harlem Globetrotters team owner and chairman Mannie Jackson was recently honored by the National Conference for Community and Justice (NCCJ) at the 50th Anniversary Humanitarian Awards Dinner at the Arizona Biltmore Resort and Spa in Phoenix.

"It is an honor to be chosen for the NCCJ Humanitarian Award," said Jackson who purchased the near-bankrupt organization in 1993 that since has resulted in an average annual growth of 17% in revenues since that year.

"The NCCJ's programs work to promote understanding and communication on our increasingly diverse society. The Globetrotters embrace these goals by building bridges between people across the street and around the globe, and aim to leave each community they visit a better place," Jackson said.

Some of the greatest players in the Globetrotters' history reunited for the celebration and were also honored by the NCCJ with the "Legends" ring.


Ben Arnold

▲ *Harlem Globetrotters team owner Mannie Jackson (l) received the NCCJ's Humanitarian Award at the organization's 50th Anniversary Humanitarian Awards Dinner in Phoenix. Grammy Award-winning singers Marilyn McCoo (c) and Billy Davis, Jr. were co-hosts of the event.*

▼ *Current and former Globetrotter players joined in the festivities to honor Jackson (bottom, c). In attendance were Dr. John Kline (1st row, l-r), J.C. Gibson, Marques Haynes, Frank Washington and Otis Key, (2nd row, far r) Hubert "Geese" Ausbie, (3rd row, l-r) Charles "Tex" Harrison, "Sweet" Lou Dunbar, Roy Byrd, Connie Hawkins, Matt Jackson and Govoner Vaughn.*

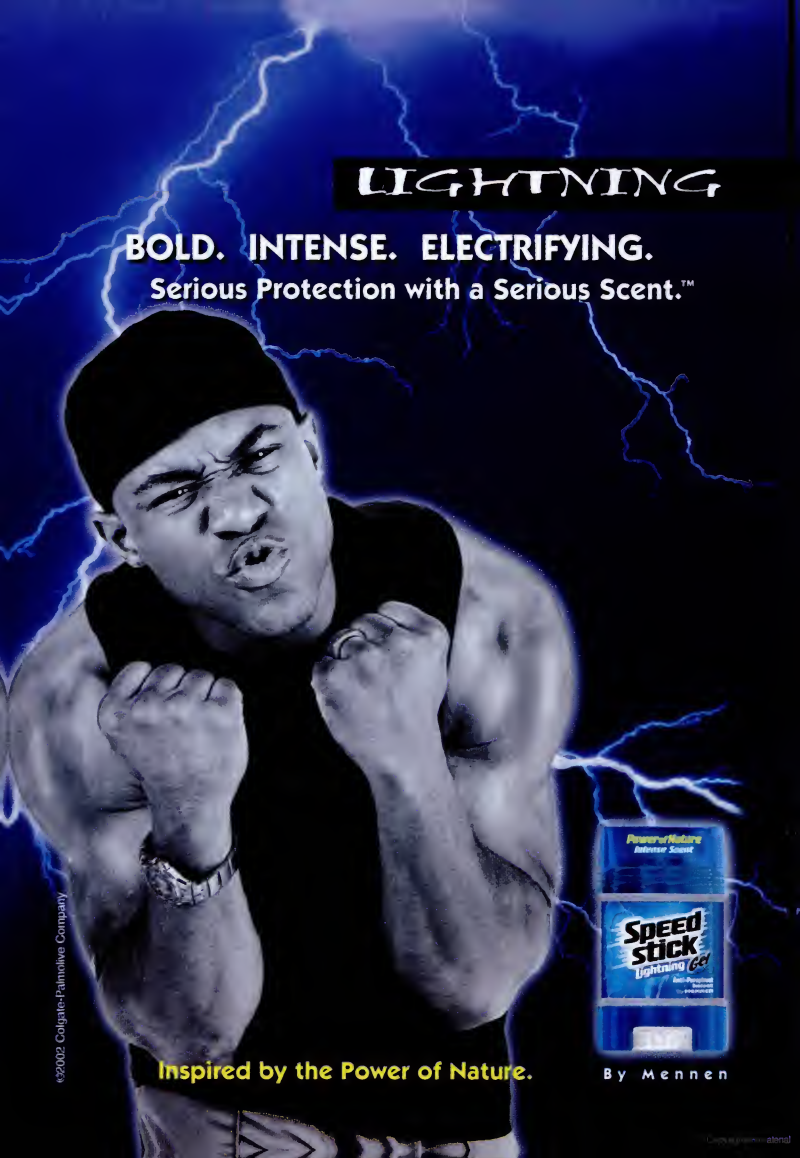

Ben Arnold



◀ **Italian Open Champ:** Tennis champion Serena Williams holds the winner's cup of the Italian Open tennis tournament in Rome. She recently won the event after beating Belgium's Justine Henin 7-6 (8-6), 6-4 for her third championship of 2002. Williams, who earned $182,000 for winning the tournament title, climbed to a career-high No. 3 in the world rankings, trailing only Jennifer Capriati (who Williams beat in the semi-finals) and her sister, Venus. Williams, marking her first career win on a clay court, looks to bring this winning momentum to this week's Grand Slam French Open tournament in Paris, which is also played on a clay surface.

▼ **Indy 500 Racer:** Racecar driver George Mack (r) hugs car owner Marc Laidler after qualifying for the Indianapolis 500 at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. Mack became only the second Black driver to make the field for the Indy, joining Willy T. Ribbs, who raced in 1991 and 1993. Battling vertigo and food poisoning, the 30-year-old Mack completed a four-lap, 10-mile run to qualify 32nd at 227.150 mph. Asked about his historic accomplishment, the Indy Rookie said, "Am I Black? Can you tell with my helmet on? I don't think it makes any difference. I think it's all about results. I just think it shows that anybody can do whatever they want to do, regardless of ethnicity." Encouraged to take up the sport by his father at age 10, Mack successfully climbed the ranks and recently formed the racing relationship with Laidler, a Los Angeles entrepreneur who founded 310 Motoring.




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Patti LaBelle Sells Condo In LA For $1.2 Mil


Patti LaBelle

Singer Patti LaBelle recently sold her condominium in Los Angeles for a reported $1.2 million.

The Hot Property section of the Los Angeles Times reported that LaBelle, 57, bought the two bedroom, 2,600-square feet-condo on the elegant Wilshire Corridor near UCLA in 1998. The building has a pool, gym and a wine room with a 36 bottle capacity locker for each unit.

Her unit has a master suite with a sitting area, steam room and spa tub and 2.5 baths, the paper reported.

The two-time Grammy Award winner spent months refurbishing the unit and then put it on the market when she realized she spent most of her time on the East Coast, the Times said. LaBelle spends a considerable amount of her time in her native Philadelphia. She sold the unit to a local nightclub owner.

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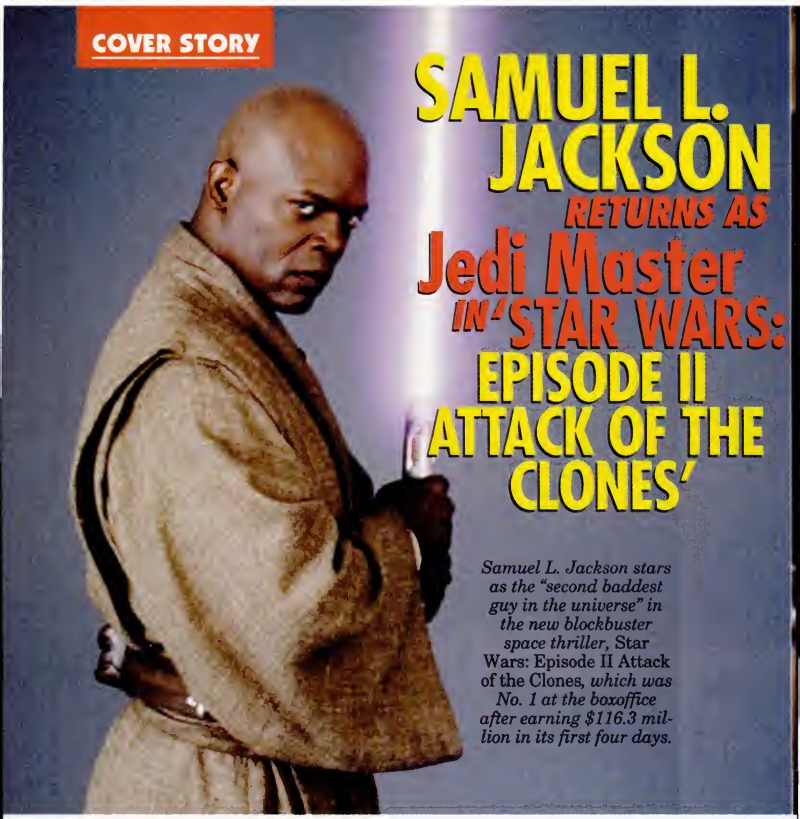
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SAMUEL L. JACKSON RETURNS AS Jedi Master IN 'STAR WARS: EPISODE II ATTACK OF THE CLONES'



Samuel L. Jackson stars as the "second baddest guy in the universe" in the new blockbuster space thriller, Star Wars: Episode II Attack of the Clones, *which was No. 1 at the boxoffice after earning $116.3 million in its first four days.*

Versatile actor Samuel L. Jackson returns in filmmaker George Lucas' highly-anticipated movie, *Star Wars: Episode II Attack of the Clones.*

Jackson reprises his role as Jedi Master Mace Windu, whom he describes as "the second baddest guy in the universe." Jackson won rave reviews for his performance in *Star Wars: Episode I The Phantom Menace* three years ago.

Jackson told Al Roker during an interview on the "Today" show: "He's this member of the Jedi Council that's you know, extremely high up on the council. He's basically, he's second in command to Yoda. They have a close personal relationship, and they're both very disturbed right now because there is something that they can't see and that's unusual for them."

Jackson notes, "I am like a Jedi

Jackson, shown in a scene with Star Wars *characters Yoda (Frank Oz) and Obi-Wan Kenobi (Ewan McGregor), returns as Jedi Master Mace Windu in the hit film.*

Master, and I'm like the second baddest guy in the universe."

The character of Mace plays a critical role in the new film. A respected Jedi on par with Yoda, Mace is a senior member of the Jedi High Council. As the galaxy finds itself fragmented by the rise of a powerful secessionist movement spearheaded by a former Jedi, Mace comes to realize the time for negotiation has passed—and the time for action has come.

Jackson reveals, "Mace knows that war is coming, and he's in full attack mode. I've watched



▲ *Jackson enjoys the British premiere of* Star Wars: Episode II Attack of the Clones *with the film's director George Lucas at the Odeon Leicester Square in London.*



▲ *Mace ponders what to do when he realizes that war is coming in* Star Wars: Episode II Attack of the Clones.

and enjoyed Errol Flynn movies all my life, and now I finally get to fight in these incredible scenes."



Lucas, who wrote and directed all of the *Star Wars* movies, notes, "*Attack of the Clones* is a big, wide-eyed adventure film in the tradition and celebration of the Saturday matinee serials of Hollywood's golden age. They were unpretentious and designed to thrill with lots of energy, suspense and excitement. You went to those movies to escape and enjoy yourself, and that's what I wanted to capture with *Attack of the Clones*."

The 1977 release of the blockbuster film *Star Wars* launched a celebration of imagination that has continued for 25 years. Hundreds of millions of people spanning two generations have embraced Lucas' epic saga

◀ *The film's other stars Ahmed Best (Jar Jar Binks) and McGregor attend a charity premiere of the hit movie in Los Angeles.*



▲ *Jackson and his wife, actress LaTanya Richardson, pose with Darth Vader at the Los Angeles premiere of* Star Wars: Episode II Attack of the Clones.

of grand design and boundless fun. His space fantasy entertains and inspires as it explores the conflict between good and evil, technology and humanity. The story of the Skywalker family celebrates heroism and the limitless potential of the individual.

The newest chapter in Lucas' saga, *Star Wars: Episode II Attack of the Clones*, is set 10 years after the events of *Episode I The Phantom Menace*. The Republic continues to be mired in strife and chaos. A separatist movement encompassing hundreds of planets and powerful corporate alliances pose new threats to the galaxy that even the Jedi cannot stem. These moves, long planned by an as yet unrevealed and powerful force, lead to the beginning of the Clone Wars—and the beginning of the end of the Republic.

Jackson described the fun of creating his *Star Wars* character during the "Today" show interview: "How could you not have fun doing something that is this steeped in love...that is this fantastic—that is a huge expansion of all the kids' games we've ever played."

Jackson continued, "It has got intrigue. It has got excitement. You're moving fast. You're like, all powerful, and you're a hero..."

Jackson, who has already agreed to star in the next *Star Wars* movie which comes out 2005, notes that Episode II recalls the original trilogy's sense of adventure and wonder. "All those millions who loved those films are going to get the same kind of irreverence, thrills, action and romance with *Attack of the Clones*. It's going to appeal to a lot of people."

The Warning Signs Of Sexual Abuse In Children



Has your child's behavior changed lately? Does it seem as if he or she is anxious about going to a particular place or seeing a particular person? Does he or she suddenly have behavior problems such as aggressiveness or extreme mood swings such as brooding, crying or fearfulness? Has his or her grades taken a nosedive recently?

These could be warning signs of sexual abuse.

The sexual abuse of a child is something that occurs across all ethnic and socio-economic boundaries, and is a taboo that needs to be especially addressed in the Black community, according to Donald S. Chandler Jr., Ph.D., LPC, a counseling psychologist and a licensed professional counselor in Dallas. He provides psychological services to young adults and families, and is an adjunct professor at Eastfield College and the University of North Texas. His past research investigations included sexual aggression and victimization among African-Americans.

"African-Americans are less likely to report experiences of rape or child abuse. It has been documented that African-Americans generally believe that sexual abuse and incest occur most among other ethnic groups," states Chandler. "One important explanation for the lack of reporting among African-Americans has been the belief 'nothing will be done' if they report sexual abuse or sexual assault.

"Psychologically, many African-Americans believe that the 'burden of proof (for sexual abuse) is a responsibility of the victim versus other cultures (Whites), where the 'proof of innocence' is generally perceived as a responsibility of the accused. Shame and guilt about any form of sexual abuse is [also] common among African-Americans."

According to statistics, 1 in 4 girls and at least 1 in 10 boys are sexually abused in some way by the age of 18. Between 85 percent and 90 percent of the abuse is from someone the child knows. Fifty percent of all assaults take place in the child's home or the offender's home.

Below are some common signs associated with child sexual abuse, according to Chandler:

Possible Psychological and Behavioral Signs of Sexual Child Abuse:

- Changes in sleeping patterns
- Bedwetting
- Nightmares or bad dreams
- Depression, irritability, or anger
- Low self-esteem, guilt, shame
- Avoidance of people or places
- Sexual advances or "touching" inappropriately
- Sexual drawings
- Changes in socialization (social withdrawal or social isolation)

Possible Physical Symptoms

- Pregnancy
- Venereal Disease
- Trauma to the mouth or genitals
- Rectal bleeding
- Pain around the genital area
- Poor appetite
- Weight loss or weight gain



▲ *Dallas doctor Donald S. Chandler Jr., Ph.D., believes child molestation is a taboo that needs to be addressed in the Black community: "African-Americans are less likely to report experiences of rape or child abuse. It has been documented that African-Americans generally believe that sexual abuse and incest occur most among other ethnic groups."*

"You look at all the signs, physical, psychological and other warning signs of abuse," states Dr. Elaine Ferguson, MD, a Chicago pediatrician who has been in private practice for over 20 years. "There are normally some classic changes in a child's behavior that parents—and adults in general–can be aware of. Children younger than 5 tend to not articulate as older children, so people should pay attention to a child's behavior, [like] if they are fearful of someone or avoid a certain place. This behavior doesn't happen in a vacuum, there is a reason

for this. Children are very intelligent beings.

"[A child] may exhibit depression, withdrawal, and sleeping problems or make statements about their bodies being 'dirty' or 'damaged.' They may behave in a sexually inappropriate way, or have an extreme avoidance of things of a [possible] sexual nature such as bathing or going to the bathroom or strong avoidance of sexual shows or even become suicidal."

According to Ferguson, if you suspect abuse, the most important thing is to talk to the child. "It's very important to listen and believe the child and have them physically examined so that any signs of sexual abuse can be documented. If you need to take them to the emergency room, that is totally appropriate."



Experts say if you suspect your child has been molested, or if he or she has confided in you that an abuse has occurred, DO NOT PANIC. Your reaction can either help them or traumatize them further. Pay attention and let the child know you believe him or her. Reassure your child and let him or her know you are glad that you were told of the abuse.

If a child seems afraid to tell you, ask him to tell the story to a stuffed animal, doll, imaginary friend or tape recorder as you listen.



▲ *Chicago-based pediatrician Dr.Elaine Ferguson says adults need to take children seriously when told about sexual abuse.*

While you are with your child, don't say anything bad about the person who victimized him or her. That person could be someone the child really cares for, and if you show your anger your child might feel the need to protect him or her by withholding crucial information.

Ferguson says that the recent scandals involving children, while tragic, "have heightened awareness" about the safety of children. And this helps in the healing process if a child is sexually abused.

"Children are very resilient and when they are given support, therapy and plenty of love they can recover from the most horrific experiences in life."

If you suspect child molestation or abuse, contact the department of children and family services or the local authorities.

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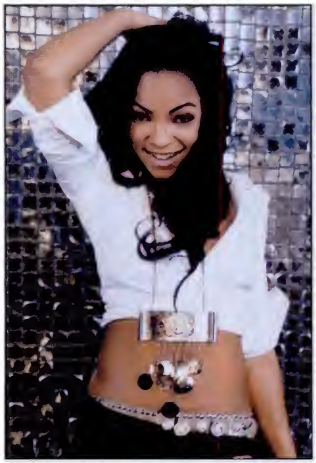
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JET top20 ALBUMS



■ ASHANTI



■ MUSIQ

1. **ASHANTI**
Ashanti (Murder Inc.)

2. **JUSLISEN**
Musiq (Def Soul)

3. **HOOD RICH**
Big Tymers (Cash Money)

4. **THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS**
R. Kelly & Jay-z (Roc-A-Fella)

5. **CEE-LO...CEE-LO GREEN AND HIS PERFECT IMPERFECTIONS**
Cee-Lo (Arista)

6. **ECSTASY**
Avant (Magic Johnson)

7. **GENESIS**
Busta Rhymes (J)

8. **WATERMELON, CHICKEN & GRITZ**
Nappy Roots (Atlantic)

9. **GHETTO LOVE**
Jaheim (Divine Mill)

10. **B2K**
B2K (Epic)

11. **WORLD OUTSIDE MY WINDOW**
Glenn Lewis (Epic)

12. **RL: EMENTS**
RL (J)

13. **STILLMATIC**
Nas (Ill Will)

14. **PAIN IS LOVE**
Ja Rule (Murder Inc.)

15. **PUT IT ON PAPER**
Ann Nesby (It's Time Child/Universal)

16. **SOUTHERN HUMMINGBIRD**
Tweet (The Gold Mind)

17. **LUTHER VANDROSS**
Luther Vandross (J)

18. **NO MORE DRAMA**
Mary J. Blige (MCA)

19. **WORD OF MOUF**
Ludacris (Disturbing Tha Peace)

20. **BETTER DAYS**
Joe (Jive)

JET top20 SINGLES



■ ASHANTI



■ MARY J. BLIGE

1. FOOLISH
Ashanti (Murder Inc.)

2. RAINY DAYZ
Mary J. Blige Featuring Ja Rule (MCA)

3. HALFCRAZY
Musiq (Def Soul)

4. I NEED A GIRL
P. Diddy Featuring Usher & Loon (Bad Boy)

5. OOPS (OH MY)
Tweet (The Gold Mind)

6. FEELS GOOD
Naughty By Nature Featuring 3LW (TVT)

7. OH BOY
Cam'Ron Featuring Juelz Santana (Roc-A-Fella)

8. PASS THE COURVOISIER PART II
Busta Rhymes Featuring P. Diddy & Pharrell (J)

9. ADDICTIVE
Truth Hurts Featuring Rakim (Aftermath)

10. MAKIN' GOOD LOVE
Avant (Magic Johnson)

11. FULL MOON
Brandy (Atlantic)

12. STILL FLY
Big Tymers (Cash Money)

13. WHAT'S LUV
Fat Joe Featuring Ashanti (Terror Squad)

14. GOTS TA BE
B2K (Epic)

15. YOU KNOW THAT I LOVE YOU
Donnell Jones (Untouchables)

16. ONE MIC
Nas (Ill Will)

17. HOT IN HERRE
Nelly (Fo' Reel Album Cut/Universal)

18. PUT IT ON PAPER
Ann Nesby Featuring Al Green (It's Time Child/Universal)

19. HOW COME YOU DON'T CALL ME
Alicia Keys (J)

20. ANYTHING
Jaheim Featuring Next (Divine Mill)

television



'56th Annual Tony Awards'

Gregory Hines and **Bernadette Peters** host the "56th Annual Tony Awards." The Tony Awards salutes the best of the Broadway season (Sunday, June 2 at 9 p.m., ET) on CBS. Others scheduled to appear this week include:

Gary Dourdan on "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation," (Thursday, May 30 at 9 p.m., ET) on ABC.

Ice T on "Law & Order," (Friday, May 31 at 10 p.m., ET) on NBC.

Della Reese on "Touched By An Angel," (Saturday, June 1 at 8 p.m., ET) on CBS.

Courtney Vance on "Law & Order: Criminal Intent," (Sunday, June 2 at 9 p.m., ET) on NBC.

Ali Mahersalalhashbaz on "Crossing Jordan," (Monday, June 3 at 10 p.m., ET) on NBC.

Scott Lawrence on "JAG," (Tuesday, June 4 at 8 p.m., ET) on CBS.

Damon Wayans/Tisha Campbell-Martin/George O. Gore II/Jennifer Nicole Freeman/Parker McKenna Posey on "My Wife & Kids," (Wednesday, June 5 at 8 p.m., ET) on ABC.



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